California Coastal Cleanup 2020 scheduled every Saturday in Sept. SEE PAGE 4



Curfew fallout

S.J. decision to not charge curfew violators deemed 'monumental failure' by police association – **SEE PAGE 2** Rezoning request from Buddhist Temple adds to Evergreen neighborhood's concerns **SEE PAGE 9**

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SEPT. 11 - SEPT. 24, 2020 ■ VOL. 37, NO. 19

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Virtual Pathways: A partnership between Parents and Evergreen School District

t's called Virtual Pathways, Evergreen School District's new homeschool program.

Virtual Pathways is specifically intended for transitional kindergarten (TK) - 8th grade families who are interested in the homeschooling program, where the parents are involved in most aspects of the student's learning and schooling process. Additionally, parents receive the support of credentialed teachers for goalsetting, one on one meeting and guidance.

Currently, the Evergreen School District offers two pathways in this program.

Pods4Learning: www.eesd.org/ page.cfm?p=5352, a transitional See PATHWAYS, page 2



FALL APPROACHES



Pumpkin Moon - A photo of the moon was taken twenty minutes before it was full Tuesday night, Sept. 1 with an orange color caused by smoke in the sky. The September full moon is sometimes called the Harvest Moon, the Corn Moon or the Barley Moon, but this year it is not the Harvest Moon, which is the full moon closest to the autumnal equinox, which is September 22 this year. That means the October 1 full moon will be the Harvest Moon this year. *Photo by Lou Alexander*



Fire Station 31 in Evergreen receives cases of water and Gatorade from Intero Silver Creek

S an Jose Fire Station 31 on Ruby Avenue received 185 cases of water and 12 cases of Gatorade as a gesture of appreciation from Intero (Real Estate Office) of Silver Creek for all that they do for the community on Aug. 28 in fighting back wildfires and more.

"We did not ask what they needed," said Lucy Chacon, Intero Silver Creek realtor.

"We just took up a collection at the Intero office and bought as much water and Gatorade as we could at our local Costco store. If anyone would like to make a donation to any of our fire stations, please feel free to do so as it will be greatly appreciated."

Lucy said there is always someone available at our local fire stations in case anyone would like to drop off some refreshments. As first responders they are heros to our community!

Evergreen High School sophomore Escobar meets members of Congress in virtual leadership program

Congressional Hispanic Caucus makes experience possible

Paula Escobar (right), Evergreen Valley High School – class of 2022, was among 14 high school students from California to meet with members of Congress.

The meeting with Congress was made possible by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), the nation's premiere Latino leadership development organization for its 10th annual R2L NextGen program.



Despite COVID-19 prohibiting students from traveling to Washington, D.C. for a weeklong program that focuses on civic engagement, leadership, and col-

long program that focuses on civic engagement, leadership, and college readiness, CHCI was able to offer students a transformational experience virtually.

Participants spent the month of July working on their personal and professional growth with a cohort of fellow young leaders. The virtual format allowed the inclusion of mentors, college recruiters, and speakers from across the country to share their stories and expertise with students. Participants also worked on a "census engagement" plan that will allow them to contribute to the census count in their community.

"I am grateful to our partner State Farm for supporting CHCI's mission to provide R2L NextGen participants with the tools, resources, and opportunities to help them attain their educational and leadership aspirations," said Marco Davis, President and CEO of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute. The program participants are eager, inspired, and excited to take on new challenges today that will help them create a better future for the nation,"

The R2L NextGen program was created in partnership with founding sponsor State Farm™ in 2011. Over the past 10 years, State Farm has helped CHCI train 633 young Latino leaders.

Additional support is provided by Facebook; Bank of America; Edison International/Southern California Edison; Ford Motor Company Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford Motor Company; The California Endowment; Phillips 66; and GEAR UP 4 LA.

The California R2L NextGen participants were: Quentin Armendariz, Liberty High School, Bakersfield; Nyslai Bolanos, UCLA Community School, Los Angeles; Isabella Corona, Sacred Heart High School, Alhambra; Paula Escobar, Evergreen Valley High School, San Jose; Joselyn Espinoza, James Lick High School, San Jose; Dariana Garcia, West Adams Prep High School, Los Angeles; Michelle Graciano, Luis Valdez Leadership Academy, San Jose; Victor Gonzalez, John C. Kimball High School, Tracy; Christo Hernandez, Hector Godinez Fundamental High School, Santa Ana; Esmeralda Leal Isidoro, Desert Mirage High School, Mecca; Brandon Morales, Compton High School, Compton; Edgar Perez-Lopez, Bellarmine College Preparatory, San Jose; Fernando Rax Lopez, Nogales High School, West Covina; and Lauren Sanchez, Maywood Center for Enriched Studies, Huntington Park.

S.J. decision to not charge curfew violators deemed 'monumental failure' by police officers association

City attorney says court case related to the Rodney King riots was a factor in decision

an Jose officials have decided not to prosecute those arrested on allegations of violating curfew or ignoring orders to disperse protestors that took to the streets over the police

Pathways

Continued from page 1 kindergarten and kindergarten virtual homeschooling program, and Virtual Pathways, a virtual homeschooling for grades 1-8.

"Pods4Learning and Virtual Pathways will serve the needs of the community by offering another choice for our families," said Deborah Ashmore, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. "In this new era of distance learning and the needs associated with the current state of our learning environment. This alternative to distance learning or the eventual return to in-person instruction will allow families to be in charge of their own learning through vast resources and support provided by Evergreen School District."

Highlights of the Evergreen Virtual Pathways Program:

• Is an online program that is rigorous, relevant and focused on high expectations for all students.

• Provides district approved curriculum aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

• Is an alternative instructional program through which all enrolled students in grades TK-8 may achieve curriculum objectives in a setting other than the regular classroom.

• Is FREE and open to all students in Evergreen School District, Santa Clara County, and adjoining counties: Santa Cruz, San Mateo, San Joaquin, Alameda, Stanislaus, Merced and San Benito with inter-district transfer.

• Is a stand-alone district program.

• Gives parents the opportunity to teach their children at home with support from a supervising, credentialed teacher / learning coach.

• Includes monthly extracurricular activities to build a vibrant community of learners of all age groups. These are standards based and designed to enrich the curriculum for all students.

• Provides a Chromebook or iPad, depending on the program you are enrolled in, from the district to use at no cost.

For more information, please go to www.eesd.org/choices4you.

killing of George Floyd.

On Thursday Sept 3, in a confidential memo sent to city leaders, acting City Attorney Nora Frimann stated, "The 1993 court case regarding a curfew order issued during the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles put the legality of some of the dozens of arrests made for San Jose curfew violations into question and served as one of the key factors in the city's decision."

The case - People v. Continola overturned three test cases involving people arrested for merely walking on the streets or being in their cars after curfew. Judges' ruled at that time that police should have limited their crackdown on the curfew order to individuals whose actions threatened to "imperil lives or property or prevent, hinder or delay" police or fire personnel.

None of the three individuals represented in the case were involved in imperiling lives or property as stated in the memo.

"Shouldn't we have heard about it as we were writing the ordinance or having conversations about it with the council?" San Jose Police Chief Eddie Garcia said in an interview last Thursday, "To have an ordinance that at the end of it doesn't have any teeth to it serves little purpose." **"Monumental failure in**

leadership"

Paul Kelly, president of the San Jose Police Officers Association, in a statement called the decision to drop charges related to curfew violations a "monumental failure in leadership" that put the city's police officers "in harm's way" and led to numerous "needless confrontations" between police and community members.

"City leaders need to figure out that not all protesters are peaceful and that some seek to cause harm and destruction," Kelly said in the statement. "Those that do must be held accountable instead of being appeased. Otherwise, the mayor and council members better get to Home Depot and buy enough paint and home repair supplies because the unruly defund the police mob is headed to their homes next."

Individuals facing charges during the curfew violation - such as assault, burglary, and vandalism will have those charges sent to the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office for review and potential prosecution.

Back-to-school tips to help parents prepare and cope with anxiety of new school year

Back-to-school season, usually a time of exciting new beginnings, is evoking many different feelings for families this year: anxiety, uncertainty, and chaos, to name a few.

As schools are struggling to safely reopen, successfully hold fully virtual classes, and balance in-person and remote learning, parents have a lot more to prep for this year than ever before.

Brainly, the world's largest online learning and homework help community, has some back-to-school tips to help parents prepare for this unprecedented school year-- regardless of their school or situation.

Back-to-school tips

1. Talk to your child about how this school year will be different. Be upfront about the situation and empower your child to make smart choices and do their part to help stop the spread. Things like handwashing, so-cial distancing etiquette, and mask-wearing should be discussed. Having an open conversation and presenting all the facts will make both you and your child feel less anxious.

2. Create a learning command center. Spend some time creating a space in your home for your child to study or do homework. If you don't have a spare area, or if you have multiple children who want to work together, create a way to store school supplies in a cart or container that's portable and can be used at the kitchen table or anywhere.

3. Build excitement and inspire positivity. While getting mentally prepared for this back-to-school season may be a particularly tough assignment for many people, it still deserves to be celebrated. Consider having a back-to-school themed TV marathon, creating an end-of-summer countdown with construction paper loops, or planning out a special breakfast for the first day.

4. Make face masks fun (and familiar). For those returning to in-person classes, have a mask for every day for your child, and make sure they like the mask and feel comfortable wearing it for extended periods of time. Cloth face masks come in countless patterns and col-



ors, and kids can use them to express their personal style while staying safe. Pro tip: it's also smart to make sure kids have an extra mask in a plastic baggie every day just in case something happens to the first one.

5. Use tech tools to enhance learning. Students who are starting out the first part of their fall semester online may find themselves needing some extra help on assignments, and luckily there are plenty of safe online resources they can utilize. Brainly is a social online learning and homework help community that brings all the benefits of in-person study groups into a digital format. Dictionary.com is perfect for students needing to look up definitions for vocabulary words, synonyms or antonyms, as well as wanting to expand their personal word bank with a word of the day. myHomework Student Planner app is a digital resource where students can input due dates of assignments, homework deadlines, and reminders for almost anything under the sun to help them stay on top of their work and feel confident in class

6. Bake in time for social interactions and study breaks. Some students who are starting virtual classes may be feeling a little down about not getting to see their friends, but there are plenty of ways for them to still socialize with their friends. Encourage your kid to incorporate games into their Zoom calls. For example, he or she can use this no-frills Charades Generator to pick a word to act out in front of the camera, then see who in their audience can guess! And during the school day at home, it's important to schedule regular breaks every hour or so.

7. Meal prep healthy lunches and snacks. Getting organized ahead of schedule makes all the difference in the world. There are tons of online resources for quick, easy, healthy snacks and lunch ideas for kids of all ages (and adults!) such as MealBoard, LaLa Lunchbox, or Cozi. Make things easier on yourself by prepping for the coming week on Sundays and having everything conveniently stored and ready-to-go in the fridge to help streamline school days.

San Jose City Council passes commercial linkage fee

t the San Jose City Council meeting Sept. 1 the pressing need for affordable housing Aspurred broad consensus on establishing a Commercial Linkage Fee, implementing a new framework for developer fees that will fund affordable housing projects in the City.

"I commend my council colleagues, community organizations, and business partners for working together to find middle ground on a solution that will generate millions of dollars annually for affordable housing, while ensuring that job-creating projects can move forward,' said San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo. "As we confront the deepest economic crisis of our lifetimes, and our persistent affordable housing crisis, we need to follow a balanced course that enables more families both to put food on the table and to stay housed."

City staff issued a Feasibility Analysis, prepared by consultant Keyser Marston Associates, to assess the economic effects of potential commercial linkage fees and provided context materials to support selection of fee levels for the program. Because the analysis was based on 2019 data, the City Council voted to undertake a new study within two years, and monitor the impact of the fees in an economy continuing to recover from COVID-19.

SUPERVISOR 2020



Under the approved City Council plan, Downtown office developers with projects more than 100,000 square feet will have three fee options: • \$12 per square foot if paid upon the Certifi-

cate of Occupancy;

• \$15 per square foot if paid in phases or; • The option to build or buy a prescribed amount of affordable housing concurrent with development

Large projects outside of Downtown will pay \$5 per square foot. For office projects less than 100,000 square feet citywide, City Council amended that the first 50,000 square feet will not be charged the \$3 per square foot fee. Retail development fees will continue at no cost due to increasing vacancies brought on by the COVID-19 economic crisis.

EVC, SJCC faculty among most diverse in nation

tudents returning to virtual S classrooms at Evergreen Valley College (EVC) and San José City College (SJCC) are being taught by some of the most diverse faculty in the nation, according to new data from the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Chronicle's "Diversity Index," which was published recently, ranks "colleges with the greatest racial and ethnic diversity among faculty members." EVC ranks No. 4 and SJCC No. 5 nationally among all two-year public institutions. This marks the second straight year that both colleges ranked among the top seven.

"While we certainly benefit from being located in one of the most diverse regions in the country, we have also been very intentional with our faculty recruitment process in order to ensure that we are identifying the most highly qualified and talented faculty possible to fill our available positions," said Dr. Byron D. Clift Breland, San José – Evergreen Community College District chancellor. "By taking steps to ensure we recruit diverse applicant pools, we are able to hire the best and brightest faculty from throughout the nation and world."

According to research, having a faculty comprised of instructors who reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the students they teach is beneficial for multiple reasons. One study of more than 1,000 college students conducted for the PhD Project found that more than 90 percent of minority students indicated that studying under a minority professor had a positive impact on their education. A more recent study published in 2018 concluded that graduation rates for minority students are positively affected by increased diversity of their faculty.

"Representation matters," Chancellor Breland said. "It's important that our students have educational role models and an opportunity to learn from faculty from a variety of backgrounds."

The Chronicle of Higher Education's Diversity Index measures "the probability that any two full-time instructional faculty members at an institution are from different racial or ethnic groups."



ELECTION DAY is NOVEMBER 3, 2020 **Ballots Arrive By Mail in Early October**

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College HUNKS offers free moving services to anyone fleeing domestic violence

Rapidly accumulating data is showing a disturbing trend during COVID-19 quarantine life—an uptick in domestic violence incidents.

With families sheltering in place, it's become increasingly difficult for domestic violence victims to escape from their situations and seek help. As such, College HUNKS Moving Company (HUNKS) is offering free moving services to anyone fleeing domestic violence.

HUNKS is now a resource on the national domestic violence hotline and is working with safe houses and counselors and domestic violence shelters directly in the 130 markets where they have franchises.

"Home isolation, however vital to the fight against the pandemic, is giving still more power to the abuser," said Dr. Marianne Hester, a sociologist who studies abusive relationships. "People fleeing an abusive domestic situation need to remove themselves from the home they've been living in and either take up residence elsewhere or go to a shelter."

College HUNKS Hauling Junk & Moving was originally founded by two college friends in 2003. Now, it has over 100 franchises supplying full-service, tech-enabled residential and commercial moving, junk removal, donation pickups, and labor services in the United States and Canada. HUNKS, which stands for Honest, Uniformed, Nice, Knowledgeable, Service, consider themselves a socially conscious organization and have a national partnership with Feeding Children Everywhere.

Here's how it works. A certified domestic violence shelter needs to See HUNKS, page 6

Evergreen Times

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Valley Currents

cur-rent (adj.) Present, topical, timely, newsworthy. (n.) Movement in a definite direction, a flow.

California Coastal Cleanup 2020 scheduled every Saturday during the month of September

Valley Water invites everyone to clean local streets and parks to stop trash from flowing to our waterways

Pollution prevention starts at our front door. The trash in our neighborhood often winds up in storm drains, creeks, rivers, and ultimately travels all the way out to the bay, polluting those waters.

Across the state, thousands of volunteers will spread out every Saturday in September from 9 a.m. to noon to help keep our waterways clean.

Though we can't work closely with each other for the California Coastal Cleanup during COVID-19, we can join with people in our own households to protect our happy place.

Valley Water invites the community to join a socially distanced cleanup in their neighborhood and local natural areas. This year, California Coastal Cleanup has been extended from one day to four to minimize overcrowding of volunteers.

Everyone in Santa Clara County is encouraged to participate in at least one Saturday morning cleanup by pledging to volunteer at

www.cleanacreek.org. Participants should follow social distancing guidelines, wear a face covering, long pants and sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated.

Coastal Cleanup Day is California's largest volunteer annual event. It is organized statewide by the California Coastal Commission, and locally by the Creek Connections Action Group. In 2019, a recordbroaking 2 166 volunteers of

breaking 2,166 volunteers participated in California Coastal Cleanup at 47 different sites in Santa Clara County. They collected more than 53,297 pounds of trash and cleaned 58 miles of creeks. Across the state, almost 60,000 volunteers responded to the call to action, gathering 900,000 pounds of trash from California's waterways.

Thanks to funding provided by the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection



Volunteers begin picking up trash on September 4, the first scheduled of four Saturday Costal Cleanup days.

Program, cleaning our creeks is an on-going effort that extends way beyond the California Coastal Cleanup initiative. Valley Water supports year-round efforts to restore creeks, improve water quality, and enhance habitat for fish. Together we all are making a difference in our local waterways.

To register visit www.cleanacreek.org, or for more information, visit: www.coastal. ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd.html

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reader questions equal treatment

Dear Editor,

California's constitutional guarantee of equal treatment is under attack!

Prop 16 intends to remove the following language from the state constitution: "The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting."

In spite of its fancy language, the purported goal of Prop 16 is clear: preferential treatment will be legalized in public jobs, schools and contracts, in the name of skin-color diversity.

California has achieved amazing levels of diversity and inclusion. Today, both UC and CSU have more female students than male students.

The UC system has reached a record high of minority students in its 2020 admissions cycle. Granted, it is more difficult to get into the UC.

The acceptance rates have declined across all racial groups as a result of state-wide budget cuts, population growth and increases in non-California students. Prop 209 is not to blame. Nor will Prop 16 solve the problem. The solution to dwindling admission rates is to increase UC's capacity.

Broadly, Prop 16 will not solve systematic

causes of persistent socioeconomic disparities. The key is to improve underserved communities with better housing, better K-12, and better jobs that have been outsourced. Prop 16 is a band-aid over deeper societal issues and it can exacerbate these problems by masquerading the symptoms.

Treating everyone equally is the cornerstone of American values. This fundamental value is a motivating factor for Americans of various races, ethnicities and national origins to get ahead in life with hard work and initiative. True equality has facilitated my American dream as an immigrant.

Vote NO on Prop 16! **Ric Shar**

Sr. Principal Data Scientist

The beat goes on

Dear Editor,

We don't have a 'rogue cop' problem in America. Let's be clear on that. It was caught on video. That's why it became of national interest.

Mr Jacob Blake shot seven times in the back as he went to get into his car is now paralyzed from the waist down; another side addition to the average of three police killings every day in America. We need our police and we need each other too. But we don't need the current violence now wedded into our policing system.

The police violence problem is NOT because we have a few 'rogue cops' that need to be weed-

ed out. I wish it were that simple. The Police Officers I know are the nicest guys. But as in all jobs there is a culture built around the job. The police culture is built on past precedent and evolves over time. Those on the inside experiencing the change evolve with the change about them.

Cops are trained to follow the rules set out for them as part of their police culture. I wouldn't be surprised if the Consultants and Police Trainers come with military experience from Afghanistan and Iraq - our endless wars that portray human beings from the perspective of a human enemy, just as police departments use excess military equipment. Be that true or not the police world view comes from their mountain top experience where the legal rules make their word and actions almost impregnable to question.

There is both formal and informal training in any and all fields of learning and practice. The formal training is the easiest to get at. The informal training, the police culture, is harder to get at.

A now retired police officer friend of mine once commented that as he approached retirement he found himself classifying people that he met as either a victim/potential victim of crime or a perpetrator of crime. After years as a hospital chaplain I recall classifying people as either hospital patients or preparing to become hospital patients. These are parallel examples of a distorted culture view and a loss of ability to *See LETTERS, next page*

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters

Continued from previous page

recognize our human relatedness to everyone we meet.

Here are some practical steps to change policing efforts.

1). Train police to DE-ESCALATE situations. This means talking and negotiating until nonviolent interventions overwhelm the desire to remove guns from holsters. A Change to nonviolent emphasis policing methods will increase the respect and support for the police. Police receive more training in violent behaviors with minimal training in de-escalation techniques.

2). Stop using chemical weapons against the people who pay for the police through their taxes. Tear gas and other associated violence breeds violent self-survival responses in return; ultimately counterproductive.

3). It would seem logical that cops should live by the same laws as everyone else. But they don't. The law specifically exempts them. And City Contracts with police unions removes most if not all transparency and ability to remove officers from employment. Police Unions heavily fund political campaigns. It will be hard to get serious changes made when the politician relies on the funding support of the police unions. This is clearly true in San Jose too. The public will need to press for this transparency and the Unions and the elected officials will not!

4) The relationship between police offi-

cers and prosecutors is incestuous. Prosecutors rely heavily on the word of police officers to get convictions. Now we want them to prosecute the very people they depend on. Will they do this without major political pressure?

5). Nonviolent protest is important. But the pressure on political leaders in the political and social process is of even greater importance. That means public demand for transparency, social media postings, letters to the editor and elected officials and candidates, participation in the political process, forums, public meetings with a well-supported public voice. Police and politicians are paid by the taxpayer.

The early Christians were encouraged to respect their civil rulers. To defy them could mean instant death. But they were also encouraged to live by the higher standard where ethics and equal justice ruled. In our democracy we should encourage all to live by the higher standard. It is possible. And we don't need to see three of our neighbors killed by police in America every day. There is already enough suffering in our community and world.

Changing the police culture and the racial prejudice that is part of it will go a long way toward making us a community more representative of our ideals with less need to attend police inspired funerals of our friends and neighbors.

John Goldstein, Lead Pastor Grace Church of Evergreen

City Council votes to support Prop 16 despite protests

Dear Editor,

On Aug. 25-26 at 12 midnight, [the City Council voted to support Prop 16], meeting for 13 hours, after making more than 50 people wait online, leaving people yawning, sleepy, and in a hurry, and cutting people's time to one minute while cutting the list of people waiting online to speak.

The San Jose City Council, bluntly breaking the law and supporting in plain sight hatred toward white people, voted to support Prop 16 (which will destroy Prop 209.) The proposition grants equality for ALL people which states that the government and public institutions cannot discriminate against or grant preferential treatment to persons on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in public employment, public education, and public contracting as in the constitution.

San Jose City Council violated, Government code section 54964 which states that "an officer, employee, or consultant of a local agency may not expend or authorize the expenditure of any of the fund of the local agency to support or oppose the approval or rejection of a ballot measure," much less creating one, like San Jose City councilwoman Sylvia Arenas did in June by creating this REVERSE RACIST Proposition 16. San Jose City council DID NOT listen to 99% of the people that spoke against Prop 16. They did not care; they did not even hesitate. The building of a Car Wash in Pam Foley's district was given more importance, deliverance, and analysis. During the 13 hours, I waited online every person was given 2 minutes to express their ideas, when it came to Prop 16, they decided to constrict the public speaking time to one minute, and deliberately eliminated several speakers waiting in line. The council members had already prepared statements as if they knew in advance that they were going to vote yes, no matter what.

San José City Council is supporting Marxist BLM and Antifa in the changing of the California constitution. That is what communists do best. BLM and Antifa are financed by the Cuban Venezuelan communist regimes. BLM leaders have publicly participated in Venezuela internal affairs and have been appointed to oversee Marxist manipulated elections in Venezuela. They have received subversive war training tactics from Cuban Communists and have approved the murdering of THOUSANDS of Venezuelans and have contributed to 5 MILLION of Venezuelans fleeing the communist regime.

Do not allow Marxism to change the Ca (USA) constitution and destroy Prop 209 which grants equality for ALL people, save Prop 209 and VOTE NO ON PROP 16."

Tessie Crosby San Jose





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Lions and Kiwanis Clubs provide backpacks full of supplies for needy children

By Judy Froom Special to the Times Chool supplies along with a backpack seem like such a simple fulfillment to get our kids ready for the school year (either from our homemade work stations or in socially responsible classrooms this year), but for many families of school age children it is a "luxury."

Keeping along with the growth of backpacks for kids for more than 15 years, members of Lions Clubs from Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties provided backpacks full of schools supplies for needy children on Saturday August 1.

While social distancing is observed with online learning, most students still need school supplies and something like a backpack to keep their school work together and to prepare for when school does eventually open up in-person possibly later this year.

In the age of Covid-19, with many parents losing their jobs and needing more asNearly 300 of the backpacks went to a homeless youth program in Santa Clara County and 30 went to a foster youth program.

sistance, more backpacks were needed than ever before, and that's why Lions clubs partnering with Kiwanis Clubs responded in a positive way.

Nearly 300 of the backpacks went to a homeless youth program in Santa Clara County and 30 went to a foster youth program.

Hunks

Continued from page 4

approve any victims requesting a free move to ensure that the victim is supported throughout the transition as well as for the safety of the moving team and victim. Anyone in a domestic violence situation should first contact the police or a domestic violence shelter immediately.

The shelter will contact HUNKS at NationalAccounts@CHHJ.com and the movers will make themselves available and help coordinate the move.

For more information, please visit www. collegehunkshaulingjunk.com

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Times News Registered voters can track their ballot online

All registered voters in California can track their vote-by-mail ballot which will arrive with a prepaid postage return envelope for the November 3, 2020 General Election.

The state has rolled out a new system that will allow voters to check their mail ballot status and get real-time updates as it moves through the mail.

"All voters can now get critical updates on their ballots through California's official 'Where's My Ballot?' tracking tool," Secretary of State Alex Padilla wrote in an announcement. "Don't miss out on the opportunity to track your ballot every step of the way!"

While receiving a mail-in ballot is automatic, you'll have to opt-in to the tracking tool. Do that by visiting the official website: https://california.ballottrax.net/voter and enter your preferred contact information. You'll have options to get your updates via email, text, or voice, and can even preset "do not disturb" hours when you would prefer not be contacted.

You can select to receive notifications on the status of your vote-by-mail ballot by text (SMS), email, or voice call, including alerts if there are any issues with your ballot and instructions for how to correct them to make sure your vote is counted.

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Rezoning request from Buddhist Temple adds to Evergreen neighborhood's concerns

By Stella Lorence

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight

Residents of Evergreen are raising new concerns over a proposed Buddhist temple in their neighborhood which now seeks to change zoning of the site.

Wat Khmer Kampuchea Krom wants to rezone the lot from a residential zone to a Public-Quasi-Public (PQP) zone, which residents fear will lead to a more "intense" use of the property.

Religious buildings are permitted in residential zones, but they are subject to certain building codes, such as height caps and noise restrictions. If the lot is rezoned to PQP, the height cap goes from 35 feet to 65 feet and the building can be 10 feet from the street instead of 25 feet. Louder levels of noise also are permitted.

"Everyone would like it to stay as close as possible to the characteristics of the neighborhood," said Janet Holt, a member of Evergreen Neighborhood Community Core, a group formed to oppose the temple project.

Wat Khmer Kampuchea Krom did not respond to a request for comment.

Residents have met with representatives from Wat Khmer Kampuchea Krom, a religious organization that practices Theravada Buddhism, for almost two years to reach an agreement on the temple for the 1.86-acre lot at the corner of Ruby and Norwood Avenues.

Designs for the temple have been revised at least twice based on community feedback before plans were submitted to the San Jose Planning Commission Jan. 7.

"Right from the get-go, I don't think anyone had concerns about a religious building in the neighborhood," said Murali Pabbisetty, another member of Evergreen Neighborhood Community Core. "Not one person said they don't want it."

The neighborhood's initial concerns centered around the underground parking garage and the size of the project, as well as the precedent the underground parking lot would set for other new projects in residential areas.

Holt said neighbors were worried about major events such as weddings causing traffic and noise on the street, but were reassured by the Wat Khmer Kampuchea Krom representatives that weddings and funerals wouldn't happen at the temple. However, the conditional use permit filed with the city Planning Commission includes plans to rent out the space for such events.

"Their operating conditions were more than they originally told us but weddings and funerals are done in religious buildings so it's not that the neighbors don't expect it," Holt said. "We don't think you'll have any way to control it."

Pabbisetty agreed, emphasizing the problem is not that the temple will be used for bigger events but that the plans need to reflect and account for these types of events.

"I support them doing (celebrations) but let's do it right by right-sizing the temple," Pabbisetty said. "Let's plan for it. Once they come, we are their neighbors. We don't want to be their monitors."

From a Planning Commission perspective, the different zone distinctions change who makes the decision to allow the project to move forward. The rezoning request requires the City Council's approval, which is granted after considering the planning commission's recommendation.

The Planning Commission received a conditional use permit and one version of the plan set in January, said Michelle Flores, a commission staff member overseeing the project. The commission is now waiting for the project to be resubmitted by the temple.

Once the project is resubmitted, it undergoes at least one round of review and more community meetings. If there are still comments on the project after the next resubmittal, it undergoes a second round of review. Flores said the timing of the next

community meeting depends on how quickly the temple revises and resubmits their plans. The commission's analysis and

recommendation will be posted online one week prior to the City Council's hear-



This rendering shows an overhead view of the proposed temple on the almost two-acre lot at the corner of Ruby Ave. and Norwood Ave. *Photo courtesy of the San Jose Planning Commission.*

ing. Flores said the project's webpage includes updates on the project. Demolition work on the property began in March.

Wat Khmer Kampuchea Krom tried to be considerate of the strains of the demolition on the neighbors. "The safety of our neighborhood is a top priority, and we took these precautionary measures at our own expense and our own risk since we have yet to receive approval to build on the site," they wrote in an open letter to the community. "We will continue to respond to concerns and act quickly to ensure everyone's safety and well-being."

Contact Stella Lorence at stella. g.lorence@gmail.com or follow on Twitter @slorence3.



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Valley Water rescues, relocates threatened steelhead in Coyote Creek

Biologists act on timeline before Anderson Reservoir drawdown

Alley Water biologists rescued federally threatened Central California Coast Steelhead from Coyote Creek recently and relocated them to a more suitable environment in the Coyote watershed.

Valley Water captured Central California Coast Steelhead from Coyote Creek before the drawdown of Anderson Reservoir begins on Oct. 1. Eighteen biologists participated in the rescue and relocation effort, which started Aug. 17 and ended Aug. 20.

"This is an example of Valley Water's commitment to protecting sensitive and threatened species like the Central California Coast



Steelhead," said Nai Hsueh, Chair of the Valley Water Board of Directors. "We believe it's important to make every effort to move these fish into a more beneficial environment."

Valley Water will begin draining Anderson

Reservoir on Oct. 1 to allow for the construction of a new, larger outlet tunnel at Anderson Dam. The tunnel will allow for greater control over water levels, provide additional incidental flood protection, and help the environment.

Draining the reservoir and building the outlet tunnel comes in response to a directive from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the federal agency that has oversight of Anderson Dam. Valley Water is working to retrofit and strengthen Anderson Dam, home to Santa Clara County's largest reservoir, so it can safely withstand a strong earthquake.

Anderson Reservoir will be drained

Anderson Reservoir will gradually be drained to about 3% of capacity. Valley Water will keep water flowing into Coyote Creek by

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using imported water pumped from San Luis Reservoir. That imported water may be warmer than water that is normally in the creek during the summer and early fall.

"Most fish and the ecosystem will be able to persist in Coyote Creek, because water will continue to flow," said Lisa Porcella, environmental services manager at Valley Water. "However, the warmer water from San Luis is not ideal for the more sensitive steelhead."

To help catch the fish, Valley Water reduced the amount of water released into Coyote Creek from Anderson Reservoir. This encouraged the fish to congregate in pools, making it easier for Valley Water biologists to scoop them out of the water. Flows from Anderson Reservoir into Coyote Creek have resumed back to normal.

Valley Water biologists focused their efforts along a stretch of Coyote Creek which is considered the most likely place to find juvenile steelhead based on habitat and water temperatures.

Valley Water released the captured steelhead to different locations within the Coyote watershed that are anticipated to have better habitat in the coming months. The locations have been pre-selected by Valley Water in consultation with the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

All other species of fish will remain in place in Coyote Creek as water is released from Anderson and San Luis reservoirs.

Valley Water captured only juvenile steelhead or resident rainbow trout (fish that do not migrate to the ocean). Valley Water did not locate any adult steelhead, as they typically live in the ocean during this month.

The rescue and relocation plan was developed in collaboration with CDFW and NMFS. As part of that plan, Valley Water released higher flows of water from Anderson Dam into Coyote Creek in May of 2020 to encourage remaining juvenile steelhead to migrate out of Coyote Creek and into the ocean. This pulse of water provided an extra opportunity for juvenile steelhead to make it out of the creek and into the ocean, thus limiting the number of fish that might be affected by the reservoir draining.

A variety of native fish are found in Anderson Reservoir, including rainbow trout, Sacramento sucker, tule perch, hitch and prickly sculpin. Non-native fish in the reservoir include largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, white catfish, common carp, threadfin shad, and inland silverside. Following the full drawdown of the reservoir later this year, the remaining reservoir pool, which will roughly be the size of Stevens Creek Reservoir, will continue to support the fish in the reservoir.

For more information about the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit project, please visit https://www.valleywater.org/anderson-damproject

Dedicated to the wonderful ladies who help shape our world.

"Every child should have mud pies, grasshoppers, water bugs, tadpoles, frogs, mud turtles, elderberries, wild strawberries, acorns, chestnuts, trees to climb, and any child who has been deprived of these has been deprived of the best part of education." - Luther Burbank

Apple tree splendor

By Kevin Larsen

There's a river called the "Russian" in Cal-i-forn "e" "i" "a." When we were little, mom took us and like ducklings we followed.

It was there we learned about trust. Each day it got so hot that the baked asphalt road melted onto the soles of our feet. Fluffy sand, round pebbles and cool water were created by Mother Nature. Down to Mother's Beach we galloped to where secret surprises waited. Each visit brought us a deeper understanding of life for it was a location of unbridled exploration. My sister was the best for we never argued and she encouraged. All along the way experiences taught us to be brave!

One day, mom spotted an abandoned apple tree all alone on an empty plot of land. As I looked up, its bounty of green was just out of my reach. Sticks helped slap the round fruit. We gathered up only what we could eat. An old man told us an old man told him the tree was old. Once a house was there but the river took it. This led us to wonder, how a house could walk away. We learned that summer someone bought the apple tree land. We never saw them. They built a real log cabin with chiseled shiny logs to go with the forest and the tree. It was a grand tight cozy structure. The months to come brought unexpected winter rains with thunder and flood.

When summer arrived the log cabin had vanished. It must have floated slowly away inch by inch with the rising waters. Dependable gravity just decided to give up and let it go. Without anyone seeing, like a matchbox it slid off its foundation and giggled as the water lifted it silently away. All mistakes of construction were now gone as it merrily floated down the river, silently bobbing without a rudder, then it rolled on its side and became a boat. When it rested on the mud banks, there really was no rush, for it would get going again with more rain.

Picking up steam it moved without a care just clearing the Hacienda Bridge. Down the river it continued past Korbel Winery and then through the Bohemian Grove. Stealthily riding majestically on top of the rippled current with air holding it afloat, it rolled past the little town of Duncan Mills and arrived to its destination at Jenner by the sea. The next summer we wondered if our tree would still be there. A sigh of relief came over us. It simply held its breath during the flood and the water tickled the roots. The branches were like arms cradling the apples to us.

Once someone posted signs which yelled: "NO TRESSPASSING." The nerve of them trying to claim our water's edge. The community peacefully went to court to demand it be made a forever beach. My mom spoke to the judge and signed papers. I could not believe she was so powerful and an activist by nature. At the ruling it was pronounced that it would become a public beach so kids in canoes, inner tubes and floating mattresses would have their forever access.

I began to understand how the elements of winter rains, nutrient soil, and sunlight combined with the nighttime dew helped shape its fruit. I would rub off the dust of each apple on my swim trunks before biting in. The taste of the fruit was tart and I would chew it and move the rough skin to a cheek. I'd eat the juicy parts and spit out the skin for the ants. Maybe Luther Burbank made this tree with his grafting for he lived nearby long ago and gave seedlings away. He believed the best education for a child was to play in nature. These were some of my classes in nature. The river molded me and played a hand in who I became. I remember sneaking up on a crayfish only to have him dart back at me between my legs. How was I supposed to know he ran backwards? Sticking my feet into quicksand along the banks, they would be stuck solid like a Rodin sculpture. Into the blue wet clay they went creating the exhilarating chore of working them out of the quicksand. I learned to fight my fear by putting my hand in holes to capture toads the size of softballs. Fish catching taught me patience with use of Mepps spinner lures. The string tied, the pole bent, the line taunt, reeling in I learned to play the line and inevitably pulled the fish out of water to take the hook out of its mouth. I remember, I could fall and nothing hurt nor did I care. Working to capture a clumsy pollywog I never would believe it to be a baby frog. I witnessed mysterious sun bathing turtles slip into water. Wild liquorish plant was everywhere and its smothering scent cleansed my soul. Gliding on my bike with its silver metallic banana seat I did not know how to become tired in the first ten years of my life. Hearing catchy transistor radio songs of restless romance and finding out about poison oak the hard way were all part of my schooling. Foraging for sunbaked plump blackberries in secret areas I learned to avoid their thorns with my purple stained hands. Our family filled metal strainers full of them. Everyone asked mom to be sure to add more sugar "pleeeease!" Mmmm, warm pie, vanilla ice cream, there is a God.

Swimming underwater I strived to increase how long I could hold my breath, while propelling down to the bottom taught me to put my hands out to protect my head. I knew limbs of fallen trees could reach out, capture me and I could get stuck. Stories of drownings only made me stronger. Everyone yelled "remember to let go" while I was standing on the clay river bank holding a strong questionable rope tied to an overhanging tree. That was my baptism. Everyone smiling, even the tough guys, I would pick just the precise moment when to let go and fall into the water where bubbles flowed smoothly out my nose.

Throwing mud at the backs of my enemies was rewarding. Plastic sun lotion bottles of Coppertone acted as water guns and the smell of the lotion was simply intoxicating. After long swims we always had a green apple to choose from. The tree was always gently speaking to us. It mysteriously called out to my mom too. Only some people could hear its voice. She and the tree taught us about freedom. Simple hugs from my mom and dad made me happy inside. The tree occasionally caressed my hair as I walked under it. One day I heard it whisper "Enjoy your life, take what you can grab." I'm sure the tree told my mom, "Visit when you can. Bring the children. Take all you want. Come back to me each summer and play."

Times Feature



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Alex Winter and Keanu Reeves return for a new rocking adventure in Bill & Ted Face the Music. Source: Orion Pictures

Bill and Ted's Most Triumphant Return: Bill and Ted Face the Music

By Joshua Kim Special to the Times e excellent to each other! These immortal words from 1989's Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure seem as relevant as ever in the troubled times we are living in.

Since its release 30 years ago Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure has continued to be watched and re-watched by old and new fans alike because of its magical blend of wackiness, absurd humor, and eminently quotable dialogue.

The newest addition to the franchise, Bill and Ted Face the Music successfully recaptures the magic of the first film, while bringing to the table a host of fresh and interesting concepts.

Bill and Ted Face the Music introduces us to a much older Bill (Alex Winters) and Ted (Keanu Reeves), who have settled down with the Princesses (Jayma Mays and Erinn Hayes) and have two adult daughters, Thea (Samara Weaving) and Billie (Brigette Lundy-Paine).

In the intervening time since the last film, Bill and Ted's band Wyld Stallyns has fizzled out despite their constant efforts, the pair is on the verge of rethinking the future of their band and lives. They soon learn however, that the world is in danger if they are unable to produce their destined song that will bring the world together. Unconfident in their ability to produce this song by the deadline, Bill and Ted decide to travel through time in order to locate the song. In addition, Thea and Billie also travel through time to recruit famous musicians such as Louis Armstrong and Mozart who they hope can assist both their dads in producing the song.

The new aspect of Bill and Ted Face the Music that I loved the most are the daughters, Thea and Billie. With the formerly young and naive Bill and Ted grown up,

Thea and Billie effortlessly slide in effortlessly to fill the gap. From their speech to their body movements, Samara Weaving and Brigette Lundy- Paine portray perfectly what one would expect the daughters of Bill and Ted to be. Lundy- Paine deserves recognition for her great performance. In addition, the daughters allow for some genuinely heartfelt moments with their dads and bring a sense of closure to Bill and Ted's story, in what is expected to



be the final film of the franchise.

Bill and Ted Face The Music also contains many Easter eggs and the return of characters from the franchise, many of which pleasantly surprised me. Fans of the franchise will undoubtedly appreciate the winks and nods the film makes to past films, which are incorporated in creative ways.

Overall, Bill and Ted Face the Music is a worthy addition to the Bill and Ted franchise which I highly recommend to any fan of the previous films. It is also the perfect opportunity for new fans to be introduced to the franchise.

Bill and Ted Face The Music is available for purchase and rental on all major video platforms and is the perfect film to watch at home for those weary of visiting a theatre.

SOS AUTO REPAIR'S "Quick Tip" A few tips to help your vehicle reach 200,000 miles!

t wasn't too long ago that hitting 100,000 miles on your car was a milestone. With proper maintenance and attention, there's no reason you shouldn't expect to see that 100,000 mile reading on the odometer reach 200,000 miles. Here are a few tips on how we think you can make that happen.

Try to avoid short trips

The difference between driving short distances and longer distances - is that the engine never has a chance to reach its optimal operating temperature on short trips. Here's why that's a problem. Water is a byproduct of combustion. When the engine is nice and hot and operating at its most efficient temperature, the water turns to vapor and is ventilated out of the engine. But on short trips, the engine never gets up to that optimal temperature, and as a result, that water can remain in the engine, collect in the oil, and settle in the exhaust system where it causes excessive wear and tear. Frequent short trips also mean an increased number of cold starts for the engine, which also translates to increased wear because the engine's oil isn't flowing as freely or in every place that it should until the engine is warmed up.

Your owner's manual is your best friend

In addition to informing you what that little button on the dash is actually for, the owner's manual contains vital information about the various vehicle components that need to be monitored and replaced, when that needs to happen, and how owners can perform the checks. Following the owner's manual also helps prolong your vehicle's life and provides vehicle operation instructions that prevent damage and reduce wear.

Recommended vehicle maintenance schedules are key

If you aren't too fond of your vehicle and don't want it to last through the next block let alone make it to 200,000 miles, then this is the one category you want to ignore. Nothing shortens a vehicle's life faster than a lack of maintenance. Remember your friendly mechanic and the stimulating reading found between the pages of your owner's manual? They're both instrumental in knowing when to perform routine vehicle maintenance, based on either mileage or time increments, or both.

While you should keep up on all maintenance items, the most important is keeping up on your oil changes. In addition to lubricating vital engine parts, oil traps contaminants and prevents them from harming your engine. Changing the oil gets rid of all that's trapped. Oil also breaks down over time, so it's necessary to replace it at regular intervals.

Of course, don't forget about these items as well:

• Coolant, brake, power steering, and transmission fluids

- Filters, belts, brakes
- Windshield wipers

Follow your owner's manual, and your mechanic's advice, to develop and stick with a regular maintenance schedule. **Bright and shiny**

There are several reasons to keep your vehicle clean inside and out, aside from the most obvious one of looking good when you're behind the wheel. Removing dirt, bugs, sap, chemicals, and salt from your vehicle's exterior and coating it with wax on a regular basis help protect the finish and prevent the vehicle body and components from rusting, corroding, and decaying. The same is true inside the vehicle where dirt and other foreign materials if left alone, will increase fabric, vinyl, and leather wear. Regular cleaning also gets you up close and personal with it, so you're more likely to notice broken or missing parts or other maintenance items that need attention.

It's also been said that spending time cleaning your own car can be a stress reliever and give you some sort of peace of mind. I've tried it and it works for me, although I haven't done it myself for a few weeks. If you have kids or grandkids near you can even hand over the task to them alone or have them join you. Make it a familv thing!

It's a long way to 200,000 miles – another

38,000 beyond that and you'll have equaled the earth's average distance from the moon. Not every vehicle will make it to that impressive milestone, but by being a responsible vehicle owner, you can increase the likelihood that yours will.

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Cal Fire using Reid Hillview Airport to battle SCU fire

Reid Hillview Airport in South San Jose is serving as a Cal Fire Helitac base to bring added resources to battle the SCU Lightning Complex Fire, saving lives and property.

The three letters before a name of a fire is an abbreviation of the unit in charge of the response. The letters "SCU" stand for Santa Clara Unit.

Cal Fire started the process of setting up a "dip tank" station used by firefighting helicopters to replenish their supply of fire retardant on the north end of Reid Hillview Airport. Helicopters are loading up with fire suppressant and targeting the blaze which has burned 374,000 acres and is more than 35 percent contained.

The setup at RHV consists of a semitrailer sized mixing tank, two dip tanks for the helicopters, two large tanks of clean water used to mix the fire retardant, and several water tender trucks to transport water from the fire hydrant to the pools."

"In ways big and small, our local airports are an irreplaceable resource especially when we are facing a natural disaster," said Walt Gyger who heads up a group working to save Reid Hillview from possible closure. "San Martin, Santa Clara County's other community airport, is at capacity serving as a base for Cal Fire operations focused on the CZU Fire which primarily affects Santa Cruz County. Our airports are a vital lifeline."

Photo by Mark Milioto



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- Before you touch your eyes, nose & mouth.
- After you touch dirty tissues or dirty surfaces.
 Before you prepare food and before you eat.

Wash your hands with soap & warm water -OR- clean your hands with alcohol-based hand cleaner.



Times Local News

Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury seeking volunteers for 2021

Presiding Judge Deborah A. Ryan has announced that the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, is seeking volunteers to serve on the 2021 Civil Grand Jury.

The Civil Grand Jury, an arm of the Superior Court, is a part of the judicial branch of government. It serves as the county's civil watchdog agency and may examine all aspects of county and city government, special districts, and school districts. It is authorized to inspect and audit books, records, and financial expenditures, to ensure accountability of public funds. The Grand Jury may also inspect jails and juvenile detention facilities.

Grand Jury service affords citizens the unique opportunity to contribute to the efficiency of local government and play an integral part in ensuring that government officials are accountable to residents. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, United States citizens, and residents of Santa Clara County. Service on the grand jury does require a time commitment of an average of 25 hours per week, or as determined by the Grand Jury.

Due to the challenges posed by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and in line with California Penal Code §905.5(b), the Court determined it is in the best interest of the institution of the Civil Grand Jury to transition from a fiscal year term to a calendar year term. This change was considered and approved by the County Board of Supervisors and has necessitated that the next term of the Civil Grand Jury begins on January 4, 2021.

Additionally, the Civil Grand Jury Ceremony to honor and discharge the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury, and impanel the newly selected 2021 Civil Grand Jury, has been

6154-0120

rescheduled to Thursday, December 17, 2020, at 4 p.m. , and will be held remotely.

Persons interested in applying may obtain an application online at www.scscourt.org under "Civil Grand Jury". Questions may also be directed to Britney Huelbig, Deputy Manager for the Civil Grand Jury, at 408-882-2721 or CGJ@scscourt.org. The deadline to submit applications is September 25, 2020.

California joins feds for jobless benefits

California workers are now eligible to receive an additional \$300 in unemployment benefits amid the coronavirus. The benefits are expected to start within 10 days.

Governor Newsom said the state agreed to participate in a program made possible through an executive order signed by President Donald Trump.

The U.S. government's Lost Wages Assistance Program is tapping the Federal Emergency Management Agency for funding which replaces a prior program that provided \$600 in extra weekly benefits.

"The Federal Emergency Management Agency approved the state's application and will provide an initial amount of \$4.5 billion, with the possibility of additional funding going forward," the Employment Development Department stated in a post on its website.

Workers entitled to the maximum state payment of \$450 a week can now receive \$750 a week. The worker receiving the average EDD payment of \$287 will receive a weekly payment of \$587. There is a restriction, as jobless workers must be eligible to receive at least \$100 in weekly unemployment benefits, according to the EDD. Unemployed California workers also must provide a certification that they are out of work, or have suffered reduced hours, due to disruptions that the coronavirus caused.

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Times Features

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County of Santa Clara moves to the red tier on state's new COVID-19 framework

Schools can open after the County has been in the Red Tier for 14 days anta Clara County has been moved from the Purple Tier (Tier 1) to the Red Tier (Tier 2) on the State's new COVID-19 blueprint.

Although counties assigned to the Red Tier are still experiencing "substantial spread" of COVID-19, the State's framework allows counties moving from the Purple to Red Tier to reopen indoor operations at some additional businesses and allows certain activities to resume. Appropriate protocols and protective measures must be strictly followed.

The following businesses and activities are now allowed to resume under the State's framework as well as the County's Risk Reduction Order. Businesses and activities must be in compliance with all industry-specific mandatory directives set forth by the County and State, including having a Social Distancing Protocol on file and displayed.

 Schools: K-12 schools can open after the County has been in the Red Tier for 14 days. All schools must follow mandatory guidance set by the County of Santa Clara and the State of California
 Personal care services: allowed to open in-

doors with modifications • Museums, zoos, aquariums; allowed to open

• Museums, zoos, aquariums: allowed to open indoors at 25% capacity

 \bullet Gyms and fitness centers: allowed to open indoors at 10% capacity

• Shopping malls: allowed to open indoors at 50% capacity (previously open at 25% capacity) Hair salons and barbershops were previously allowed to open indoors with reduced capacity as

allowed to open indoors with reduced capacity as of August 31st. Indoor dining, indoor movie theaters, and indoor gatherings remain prohibited in Santa Clara County under the local Risk Reduc-

tion Order. Other activities that the County had previously allowed but the State had prohibited can now resume. The stricter of the State or local order always controls.

"We are pleased at this sign of progress in the fight against COVID-19, but we remind our residents that all local requirements involving the number of people who can enter a facility, face covering requirements, and social distancing protocols remain in effect," said James R. Williams, County Counsel for the County of Santa Clara. "It is critical that the businesses and activities that reopen today follow the public health directives so that we can maintain our community's progress in bringing down COVID-19 transmission."

Santa Clara County was originally placed in the most restrictive Purple Tier along with most other counties when the State switched from the monitoring list system to its current color-coded tier framework on August 28. The move to the Red Tier was based on daily case rates and test positivity. The State framework gives counties credit toward their case rate if they test more people than the state average. Using this calculation, the high number of tests performed in our area gave Santa Clara County a significant credit, allowing the County to move to the Red Tier.

If these metrics continue to improve, the County would be eligible to move forward in the framework to a less restrictive tier after three weeks. If these metrics worsen, the County would revert into a more restrictive tier as soon as two weeks from now. For more information about the State framework, visit covid19.ca.gov.

For more information on the local public health order and directives, visit www.sccgov. org/coronavirus.

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Valley Water Board votes to place updated Safe, Clean Water and Flood Protection Program measure on ballot

By John L. Varela Director, District 1 Valley Water Board of Directors N July 21, 2020, my fellow Valley Water Board Members and I voted unanimously to place a renewal measure of the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program (Safe, Clean Water Program) in front of voters this Nov. 3 for their consideration.

In November 2012, 74% of voters approved the Safe, Clean Water Program as a countywide special parcel tax to provide local funding for local projects that deliver safe, clean water, natural flood protection, and environmental stewardship to the communities we serve in Santa Clara County.

While evaluating ways to improve the 2012 program, Valley Water gathered feedback from more than 21,000 community members through an extensive engagement process. The six priorities for the renewed Safe, Clean Water Program outlined in the community-preferred program report in-

clude: • Ensure a Safe, Reliable Water Supply.

• Reduce Toxins, Hazards and Contaminants in our Waterways.

• Protect Our Water Supply from Earthquakes and Natural Disasters.

• Restore Wildlife Habitat and Provide Open Space.

• Provide Flood Protection to Homes, Businesses, Schools, and Highways.

• Support Public Health and Public Safety for Our Community.

The renewed program would fund upgrades to pipelines, dams, and water infrastructure to improve water supplies and prepare

for the risk of flooding, droughts, earthquakes, natural disasters, and climate change. The updated program will also reduce toxins, hazards, and contaminants in our rivers, lakes, and streams through pollution prevention and creek cleanup efforts.

With this renewed program, updates made for water supply reliability, environmental stewardship, flood pro-

tection, and support of public health and safety include:

• Provides \$54 million to the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit project that protects Silicon Valley in





ater

District

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another minute that you are stuck with this. What we do is help you cancel your timeshare along with all of the debt and fees associated with it.

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> Chuck McDowell, Founder & CEO

the event of a dam failure.

• Supports projects totaling approximately \$2 billion in local capital infrastructure projects.

• Provides \$53 million in grants and partnership funding for agencies, organizations and individuals for water conservation, pollution prevention, creek cleanups and education, wildlife habitat restoration and wildlife corridors, floodinducing blockage removal, and access to trails and open space.

• Provides \$10 million towards

funding the proposed expansion of Pacheco Reservoir to ensure local water supply reliability and provide emergency water supplies for up to 1.4 million people for one year.

You can find out more about the proposed program renewal, including downloading a copy of the final draft of the community-preferred program report for Safe, Clean Water renewal at safecleanwater.org.





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FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.CLEANACREEK.ORG VOLUNTEER@VALLEYWATER.ORG



Funding provided by the Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program and the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program.

Times Feature



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Nearly 100 people gathered at San Jose City Hall to commemorate Juneteenth, which had a renewed call for action this year. *File photo by Luke Johnson*

Santa Clara County employees on verge of getting Juneteenth holiday

By Madelyn Reese

Article courtesy of San José Spotlight Uneteenth is one step closer to becoming a holiday for Santa Clara County workers but not before the Board of Supervisors got an earful.

During the course of budget talks addressing a multi-million dollar shortfall Aug. 21, supervisors entertained the idea of making Juneteenth a paid holiday. The sticking point, however, was that it would incur an additional \$2.3 million in overtime and set off millions in other potential losses through lost labor and productivity.

Then, a county staffer offered a suggestion: Swap out Juneteenth for Cesar Chavez Day, currently observed in Santa Clara County on March 31.

The idea inflamed members of the public, some of whom interpreted it as pitting the Latinx community against the Black community, and prompted more than a 100 to speak their mind.

June 19, also known as Juneteenth, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Liberation Day and Emancipation Day, celebrates the day slaves were freed in the United States.

Cathy Blake, resident of District 4, noted the African American Community Service Agency has been celebrating Juneteenth for more than 30 years. The objective, Blake said, is to educate the public and recognize the African American community.

Resident Cheryl Thompson called in to voice her support for the holiday. "The importance is not just for African Americans, but this is for all people to learn our history and about the freedom we have received," she said.

The board received the brunt of much of the public's consternation, forcing

Supervisor Mike Wasserman to set matters straight. "Nobody on this board said Juneteenth would be in place of Cesar Chavez Day at any time," Wasserman said. Other board members made it clear they were not interested in pursuing this route.

Added Supervisor Susan Ellenberg: "We certainly don't want to pit one community against another."

The board unanimously voted to set aside \$2.3 million in the county budget for Juneteenth. It would only be a holiday for county employees — not a general, public holiday. A final vote is expected to take place at the supervisor's Sept. 1 meeting.

Contact Madelyn Reese at reese.madelyn@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @MadelynGReese



101 birthday drive-thru celebration for retired San Jose Fire Captain



Sam Siebert is the oldest retired San Jose Firefighter at 101. At right: Dozens of well-wishers express their gratitude during a "drive-thru" celebration for retired San Jose Firefighter Sam Seibert's 101 birthday milestone.

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Evergreen Times

The San Jose Fire Museum hosted a 101st birthday celebration for Sam Seibert, a retired San Jose Fire Captain on Saturday, August 29.

Seibert served with the San Jose Fire Department from 1946-1976 and he is the oldest known living retired San Jose Fire Fighter. He is Founder Emeritus of the San Jose Fire Museum where he continues to volunteer.

The San Jose Fire Museum "drive-thru" birthday celebration was a "drive-by" event due to Covid-19. Museum Staff directed traffic southbound on Market St. from Devine to allow firefighters and the public an opportunity to drive up and share their best wishes for Seibert from a safe distance.

Seibert, who officially turned 101 years old on August 26, says his longevity comes from the relationships that he has with his fellow volunteers and friends around him. "I've lived a great life," Seibert said.

Everyone around him considers him to be a great man.

For more information about the San Jose Fire Museum, visit: www.sjfiremuseum.org.

—Photos by Chris Smead









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Times Community News

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo endorses Ravel for State Senate

ongresswoman Anna Eshoo has announced her endorsement of Ann Ravel for State Senate.

Eshoo has represented Silicon Valley in the House of Representatives since 1993. She is the first woman ever to serve as Chair of the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

"Ann Ravel is a lifelong consumer advocate, a fierce defender of fair elections and a champion for women. But above all else, she is a fighter – willing to take on powerful interests on behalf of the people and her community," said Eshoo. "I can think of no better way to add to Silicon Valley's clout in Sacramento than sending Ann Ravel as our next state senator."

"There are few people, if any, who've done more for the people of Silicon Valley over the last forty years than Anna Eshoo," said Ravel. "I'm deeply honored to have her support for our campaign to take back power for the people and make our state government work better for all of us."

Tech Jargon of the week Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)

Have you ever stumbled into a conversation where everyone is speaking around this "techie" word – and even after you've broken in, it is difficult to understand the unfamiliar jargon and acronyms? Well, there's no need to sweat it. Let us teach you the meaning of some commonly used tech words: Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR)

Let's start with understanding Virtual Reality (VR). There are high chances that you will probably never be able to go to the Moon, run with the cheetahs, witness all the Seven Wonders of the World etc. What if I told you that you shall be able to do all these things plus visit some impossible places without leaving your home! Surprised? That's the beauty of Virtual Reality or simply VR. VR is a way to immerse users in an entirely virtual world.

The new technology in VR uses closed visors or googles to block out the room and put your presence somewhere else, either in a place in the real world or some imaginary computer-created world. Putting a VR headset over your eyes will leave you blind to the current world, but will expand your senses with experiences within. The immersion is actually quite dramatic, with some users reporting feelings of movement as they ascend a staircase or ride a rollercoaster within the virtual environment.

Oculus Rift, Samsung Gear VR, Google cardboard etc. are some of the common examples of VR these days.

So what is Augmented Reality then? Augmented Reality or simple AR is a live, direct view of your own physical environment with elements augmented by computer-generated sensory input such as sound, video, graphics or GPS data. A real life example is a table being developed by IKEA that would suggest recipes based on the ingredients kept on the table. Augmented reality takes our current reality



Anna Eshoo (left) and Ann Ravel (right)

Ravel was also appointed by Governor Jerry Brown as Chair of California's Fair Political Practices Commission. As Santa Clara County's chief attorney, she took on tobacco companies and won support for better healthcare, won pioneering cases protecting consumers, was a champion of a precedent-setting case to safeguard children from lead paint.

California's State Senate District 15 includes San Jose, Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno and Saratoga. This is an open seat — current State Senator Jim Beall is termed out in 2020.

and adds something to it. It does not move us elsewhere. It simply "augments" our current state of presence, often with clear visors.

Augmented and virtual reality have one big thing in common. They both have the remarkable ability to alter our perception of the world. Where they differ, is the perception of our presence. For example, with VR you can swim with the sharks. And with AR, you can watch a shark pop out of your business card.

Do you enjoy reading this column? Send in your comments or feedback to the author at shub.saxen@gmail.com. Shubhi Asthana works as a Research Senior Software Engineer at the IBM Almaden Research Center, San Jose.

Report: Best 10 dog-loving states

N ational Dog Day was celebrated last week, a time when we celebrate all our furry friends.

Can you believe that dogs have been with us for at least 14,000 years?

The holiday experts at National Today, the internet's #1 authority for holidays, surveyed 3,000 Americans about everyone's favorite furry friends and found:

• The majority of dog owners (70%) would prefer to spend time with their dogs versus people

- Nearly a quarter of men (23%) would prefer to spend time with their dogs than go on a date
- Nearly 4 in 10 women (39%) would prefer spending time with their dogs to dating
- 68% of dog owners allow their dog to sleep with them at least once a month
- Additionally, the top 10 dog-loving states are:
- 1. California
- New York
 Washington
- 4. Tennessee
- 5. Florida
- 6. Massachusetts
- 7. Texas
- 8. Missouri
- 9. Ohio
- 10. Arizona

Times Feature



PING HORSES

Hundreds of horses have been evacuated due to the fires in the Bay Area. Take a Chance Ranch and Coyote Canyon Ranch are working together to secure hay for all the rescued horses. One Bale of hay generally costs \$15 and will feed a horse for three days. To donate, visit: www.gofundme.com/f/horse-rescue-take-a-chance-ranch Photo courtesy of Take a Chance Ranch

Protesters vandalize Mayor Liccardo's home; neighbors volunteer to scrub away graffiti

group protesting for social justice vandalized San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo's home Friday night, August 28.

The group was seen scrawling graffiti on the front walls of his home and on the steps to his house. Protesters also set fire near the sidewalk.

Liccardo was seeing a family member and was away from his home at the time of the vandalism as more than 100 people gathered outside the mayor's home just before 11 p.m.

The group spray-painted phrases included "BLM," "Jacob Blake," and profanity including an expletive, F_{-} 12. The number 12 is code for police. The American flag was burned along with a Blue Lives Matter flag taken to the scene, according to police.

Earlier, 150 protesters marched near San Jose City Hall as part of what began as a peaceful Black Lives Matter protest. The demonstrators chanted and carried signs that read "Stop killing us" and "Defund SJPD."

Liccardo spent the night cleaning up the graffiti and eggs with the help of two dozen neighbors.



San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo and volunteers from his neighborhood clean up the grafitti to his home scrawled by protestors. Photo credit: KTVU.com

Liccardo told KTVU-TV, "It's very heartening to see people take time out on a late Friday night, to help someone out. I'm very grateful for the good people in this community."

Liccardo said mayors of other cities, such as Oakland's Libby Schaaf, have also had their homes targeted with graffiti. Protests have erupted nationwide after Jacob Blake was paralyzed in a police shooting in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

SAN JOSE RECYCLES CLEAN **DIRTY TAKEOUT CONTAINERS GO IN THE GARBAGE**



Enjoying lilies for as long as possible

hanks to their beautiful flowers, lilies are one of the most graceful flowers. But how can you enjoy these beauties for as long as possible?

In the Middle Ages, the lily was a symbol of the Virgin Mary and, therefore, also of purity and innocence. Women who wore lilies were put on a pedestal. Nowadays, lilies are still associated with the same symbolism, but these flowers actually deserve a pedestal of their own.

Striking appearance

With their impressive flowers with a diameter of 3 to 10 inches, lilies cut a striking figure. There are lilies to suit everyone's taste: you can choose from a variety of colors as well as odorless, lightly scented or strongly scented varieties. Many lilies have colored stripes, edges or spots. And did you know that there are also lilies without pollen?

Care

Once you've bought your lilies, you will want to enjoy them for as long as possible. With proper care, they will brighten up your home for ten days or even longer.

1. Choose lilies with flower buds that are just starting to open.

2. Remove the lower leaves from the part of the stem that will be under water. Submerged leaves will start to rot, which causes unpleasant smells and will make your lilies last less long.



3. Use a sharp knife to cut the stems as diagonally as possible. The shorter the stem, the longer the lily will last.

4. Put the lilies in a vase with lukewarm water and cut flower food immediately after cutting. Make sure the vase is clean by cleaning it with bleach or washing-up liquid.

5. Change the water every now and then so that mold does not have a chance to grow and the water stays clear.

6. Place your bouquet well away from ripe fruit like bananas. Fruits emit ethylene gas, which causes flowers to wilt faster.

7. If you have a pollen stain, you can easily remove it with a piece of tape

For more information about bulb flowers, visit www.ilysays.com.



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conversation always,

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with someone in our parish office. Information on Faith Formation for children and adults can be obtained by calling our Catechetical Office at 408-997-5115. Get in the loop with our 3sixty High School Youth Ministry by calling 408-997-5106. Holy Spirit School serves grades Pre-K through 8th, and is located at 1198 Redmond Avenue. You can reach the school office at 408-268-0794.

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THE POINT CHURCH 3695 Rose Terrasse Cir San Jose, CA 95148 (408) 270-7646 English Service: Sundays at 9:30 & 11:00 AM

Spanish Service: 11:00 AM Cambodian Service: 11:00 AM Cantonese Service: 11:00 AM Mandarin Service: 11:00AM Youth Extreme Point (7th-12th grade): Every Saturday at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

SAINT ANTHONY CATHOLIC CHURCH We invite you to become a part of our hospitable, intimate Catholic parish. We are a caring community, promoting spiritual

NOTE: Due to the coronavirus. many religious institutions have services online.

growth, reaching out to

wherevou get to know

peopleby name. We offer

children's religious edu-

cation (CREATE); Youth

STATIC): Scripture Study

Ministry (BLAST & X-

(day & evening); Se-

well. Saint Anthony

in Almaden Valley at

20101 McKean Road.

San Jose, 95120, Our

4 p.m. on Saturday at

our historic church at

New Almaden, CA

21800 Bertram Road in

95042 and on Sunday at

8:30 a.m.,10:30 a.m.,

McKean Road location.

Our Parish Office is open

Monday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

and Tuesday thru Thurs-

and 1 - 4 p.m. For more

information, stop by the

Parish Office or call (408) 997-4800, or visit

our website at www.

churchstanthony.com

Fr. Larry Hendel, Pastor.

God is One

ਜੱਬ ਇਕ ਹੈ

Rab lk Hai

SAN JOSE GURDWARA

San Jose, CA 95148 The

means "disciple" or "stu-

dent." A Sikh is a practi-

in the 15th century by

tioner of the faith founded

Guru Nanak in Punjab of

old British India. A Guru

who is a "teacher" or "en-

lightener" completes the

relationship of teaching

and learning. Sikhism is monotheistic and stresses

the equality of all men and

women. Sikhs believe in

meditating on the name of

God (praying), earning a

living by honest means

and sharing the fruits of

Currently there are close

to one million Sikhs living

and 25 million Sikhs living

around the world. Sikhism

is the 5th largest religion

in the world. At the Gurd-

San Jose we welcome all.

We pray daily for peace

and prosperity for every-

body in the world. Come

to visit and enjoy Langer

which is open 365 days

complementary vegetari-

an meals. We also en-

courage you to enter our

history room on site and

of the year and serves

(food) in our kitchen

wara (House of God) in

in the USA and Canada

one's labor with others.

three basic principles;

3636 Gurdwara Ave.

word Sikh (see-kh)

dav. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

and 5:30 p.m. at the

weekend Masses are at

parish is located

nior's Group and many

other adult ministries as

people in need and

walk the beautiful grounds. Learn more about us and community events we sponsor by visiting our website: http://www. SanJoseGurdwara.org

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

5111 San Felipe Rd. San Jose, CA 95135 408-223-1562. www.stfrancisofassisi.com or www.stfrancis ofassisipreschool.org We invite you to join our community of faith located in the Evergreen area of San Jose. We are an inclusive diverse community striving to serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis, offering prayerful and joyful liturgies; evangelization, fellowship, and service opportunities to the community. We offer spiritual opportunities for all ages, including children's liturgy, dynamic E.C.H.O -Jr. High. IGNITE - High School and North Star Young Adult Ministries, along with small faith communities and opportunities to help the poor and marginalized of San Jose. Our Preschool is the only Catholic Preschool offering quality family oriented service in the Evergreen and Silver Creek areas. Our Chapel, Gathering Hall, Parish Office, Mission Center, Parish Gift Shop, Memorial Garden and Preschool are all located at 5111 San Felipe Rd. Please come join us to worship at one of the following times and locations:

St. Francis of Assisi Chapel: Saturday 5:00PM, Sunday 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 4:00 PM (Mass in Vietnamese). 6:00 PM Youth Mass St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Hall Sunday 9:00 AM, Sunday11:00AM, Igbo Mass -Second Sunday of the month 12:30 PM Mt. Hamilton Grange 2840 Aborn Road Sunday 9:30 AM The Villages Gated Community (Cribari Auditorium) Sundav 8:15 AM For more information. please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 . PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

Get listed!

For Worship listing ads. call 408.483-5458

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